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ponds. Denver's playground system is one of the best in the United States. In 1910 the Park Board, which has charge of the playgrounds, expended \$12,000 on their improvement, and during the coming year a still larger appropriation will be made. Denver has been forehanded in securing breathing spaces for its citizens while they were to be had at comparatively little cost. If all cities would thus anticipate their needs it would be well. There are few cities, however, which show so much civic pride. Denver decorates its principal streets at Christmas with evergreens, placing large wreaths pendent on its electroliers and cedar on its light standards. Furthermore, a Denver firm has recently made an effort to give agreeable aspect to the ordinary board fence which customarily incloses the lot upon which a structure is being erected. Instead of the board fence in this instance there is an artistic arcade, supporting a paled-in roof along which shrubs have been placed. Another evidence of progressive movement along the lines of civic improvement and privilege is the series of exhibitions which is being held in the gallery of the Public Library under the auspices of the Artists' Club. The December exhibition consisted of a collection of etchings lent by Keppel & Company of New York. This month a collection of water colors by members of the Philadelphia and Washington Water Color Clubs, which was assembled by the American Federation of Arts, is being shown.

**PRESERVATION
OF NATURAL
BEAUTY**

The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society was established a little over fifteen years ago. It aims to protect beautiful features of the natural landscape from disfigurement, to prevent the mutilation or destruction of historic landmarks, to promote the development of city parks, and to cultivate popular appreciation of the scenic beauties of America. During the past decade members of the Society have made personal gifts aggregating over two million dol-

lars for public parks, statues, tablets, and the restoration and preservation of historic buildings. It has been influential in securing large appropriations for State Parks and is the Custodian of five State Reservations, among which may be mentioned Stony Point Battlefield, Watkins Glen, and Letchworth Park. Largely, if not entirely, through its instrumentality munificent gifts have been made to preserve the Palisades of the Hudson River and to establish what is now known as Palisade Park. It has taken a hand in the fight for Niagara and for the Hetch-Hetchy Valley preservation, and has prevented not a few historic buildings from being destroyed, among them Fraunce's Tavern, New York. All this it does through the co-operation of its members and the general public, stirring interest by means of public meetings, university lectures and the press. If this is not directly within the field of art it is certainly not far without the boundary; for beauty is a large element in art and the conservation of national individuality is essential to the development of a truly national art.

**PLASTIC
CLUB'S
EXHIBITION**

The Plastic Club, of Philadelphia, is a wide-awake association of women art workers, painters, sculptors, illustrators. It can boast not only attractive club rooms, but a well-lighted and comparatively spacious gallery. In this gallery in December an interesting collection of original illustrations in color, pastel sketches, and drawings in black and white by members of the club was exhibited. The work of Elizabeth Shippen Green, one of the Club's most distinguished members, was represented by large dramatic drawings illustrating a folk tale; fairies, wizards, midnight, forest depths, vividly depicted, told a weird and awesome story. Another of Miss Green's illustrations, "The Boy and the Flower," was in direct contrast, sunny, simple, and unimaginative. Jessie Willcox Smith's dainty, beautiful, and spiritual transcription, "Mother," one of her best-known works,